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MESSRS. ARTHUR CLEAVE AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

Proprietors N.Z. Sporting and Dramatic Review, Licensed Victuallers' Gazette.

Dear Sir,

At the Annual Meeting of the Licensed Victuallers' Association of New Zealand, held on the 19th October, 1910, a resolution was unanimously adopted constituting the Sporting and Dramatic Review, the official organ of the Association for the Dominion.

H. J. WILLIAMS.
Secretary N.Z. L.V. Association.
Wellington, October 20, 1910.

MR. C. H. POOLE'S PLATFORM UTTERANCES.

THE INTEMPERATE ZEAL OF A TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

WAIHI AS AN AWFUL EXAMPLE.

Mr. Poole, as a private citizen might record his opinions freely, without exciting any very great amount of comment, or without anyone taking his utterances seriously. But, as a member of Parliament, and the representative of such an important constituency as Auckland West, Mr. Poole fills a place in the little world of this Dominion, that invests his sayings and doings with an importance, that should cause him to weigh carefully any statements he may make reflecting upon other people or places. It has been Mr. Poole's pleasure, for some time past, to wander up and down the country in the capacity of a temperance lecturer and organiser. Whether he is being paid for his services, or not, is not apparent, but he has been figuring largely in the limelight, and telling harrowing tales concerning the horrors of the drink traffic, at sundry gatherings in both Islands. At Invercargill, he was, apparently, at a loss for "a shocking example," and Waihi occurring to him, he proceeded to paint, in somewhat lively fashion, the condition of Waihi under license, and to contrast it with Waihi under the new dispensation of No-License. And the inevitable thing happened. The ubiquitous reporter was present, and noted what Mr. Poole said. It was the reverse of complimentary to the Northern gold-mining centre, and implied that there were more ruffians to the square inch, in that part of His Majesty's Dominions than could be found in New Caledonia or the Andaman Islands. "Waihi at one time was a queer place; it was not safe for a woman to walk the streets. The expectoration was dreadful and rudeness was rampant," and so on.

THE REPORTER MR. POOLE OVERLOOKED.

But for that reporter, Mr. Poole might have pulled through, without having to make a lot of awkward explanations. The utterance was regarded as so remarkable, and as indicating a degree of wickedness, of which Invercargill could not, under any circumstances, be possibly guilty that the Press Ass telegraphed it far and wide, and Waihi figured in the same category as the reformed rake, or reclaimed drunkard, posturing in the limelight, that Mr. Poole himself loved to bask in. And Waihi objected, as it had every right to do, for it was certainly no worse than its neighbours, and possibly better than a good many. Mr. Poole's constituency included. The Mayor of Waihi, Mr. J. Newth, presiding at a concert, held in the Academy Theatre, subsequent to the appearance of Mr. Poole's statement in the papers, gave it an emphatic denial and (as the Press Association telegram puts it), "speaking with considerable warmth moved

'That this meeting of Waihi citizens enters an emphatic protest against Mr. Poole's unjustifiable remarks.' the motion being carried unanimously, amidst applause. Receiving such a facer, Mr. Poole was compelled to enter upon an explanation of his Invercargill utterances; but it is by no means certain that he has not aggravated his offence, by the very lame apology he tendered at the Auckland Opera House, on Sunday last. True, the audience assembled on that occasion accepted his statement as satisfactory, by a show of hands. But, what else could be looked for from such an audience, than a whole hearted endorsement of Mr. Poole's defence. The men, women and children, who assembled to hear Mr. Poole had not themselves been libelled. They were there to have their palates tickled by Mr. Poole's ponderous jokes and hung upon his raucous utterances, as upon those of an inspired demigod. If Mr. Poole had told them that the Waihi he knew, was only one remove from the nether regions, under license, they would have implicitly believed him. And the Invercargill reporter was not there to contradict him, when he alleged that he had been misrepresented.

THE OFFENCE REPEATED.

Mr. Poole's defence was made at the wrong time and in the wrong place. He should have "purged his soul" of the offence of which, even in his apology, he is seen to have been guilty, either at Invercargill or in Waihi itself. Common honesty, to say nothing of manliness, should have compelled him to admit, that he had overstepped the bounds of fair criticism, in his desire to score a point. And, had that admission been made, his opponents would have acclaimed his sincerity of purpose, and his zeal, even though they could consider it to be misapplied. But, as we have said, Mr. Poole added to his offence, by holding the people of Waihi up to further scorn in connection with an incident that occurred some years ago, when a party of police were mobbed in the northern goldfield, the demonstration, however, being against one man only. That was in 1905. It is a somewhat curious commentary upon Mr. Poole's statements that in the same issue of the "Herald," in which his "explanation" was recorded, two telegrams appeared, one from Invercargill affirming the substantial accuracy of the report telegraphed by the Press Association, and the other from Waihi. This letter may be left to speak for itself and is in queer contrast with Mr. Poole's statement that Waihi, under No-License is "sweet and clean." It is as follows:—It has been reported on good authority that a lady visitor to Waihi was molested on Monday evening last by two drunken men in the east end of the town. She was stopped, but fled from her molesters and met with a friend who protected her from further insult. The lady, who is an ex-resident of Waihi, states that she has lived here for fully 20 years, and never, up to this time had she been molested. The east end of the town is practically without police protection, though the Department has been requested time and again to establish a small station there, and actually owns a site in a central position.

OUR FRIEND THE ENEMY.

ALERT, VIGILANT AND ACTIVE.

FURTHER DEMANDS FOR RESTRICTION AND CONFISCATION.

The "No-License" advocates are alert, vigilant and active. At their Convention, held in Auckland last week, the members of the Provincial Council, passed a series of resolutions demanding the bare majority, the repeal of the special time limit given to the Trade in the event of No-License or Prohibition being carried, the abolition of packet licenses, etc. The resolutions carried were as follows:—

"That this Convention reiterates the demand made by the Alliance for simple majority rule on the liquor question."

"That independent of party politics, no candidate for the forthcoming Parliamentary election can be satisfactory to the Prohibition party who has not a good moral record, and is not prepared to grant majority rule."

"That the electors be urged to use their full rights of citizenship at the licensing poll by striking out the top line on each ballot-paper, and so help to secure no-license for the electorate and prohibition for the Dominion."

"That this Convention, being of opinion that all licenses should expire on June 30 after a successful poll, urges the New Zealand Alliance to take immediate action to secure the repeal of the special time limit given to 'the trade' after prohibition has been carried."

"That this Convention expresses its hearty approval of the proposed united pledge-taking campaign throughout the Dominion. The Convention trusts that the various Churches throughout the Dominion will take an active part in this important and valuable work. The Convention would also urge upon electoral leagues the desirability of giving serious attention to this important department of our cause."

"That in the opinion of this Convention the issue of packet licenses should cease. That the attention of the Government be called to illegal practice of keeping the bars on coastal steamers open at stopping places where those who are not passengers are supplied with liquor, not only for consumption on board, but also for use on shore."

"That this Convention begs to convey to Mr. A. S. Adams, of Dunedin, its great appreciation of the valuable service he has rendered to our reform as author of the pamphlet 'Professor Salmond's Blunder,' which is not only an able and effective criticism of the Professor's statements, but also a valuable hand-book for the information of temperance workers."

"That this Convention urge the New Zealand Alliance to arrange for a series of mass meetings in support of the demand for the bare majority to be held before the next poll."

TRADE TOPICS.

At the annual meeting of the Dunedin Licensing Committee on Monday, applications for the renewal of bottle licenses were refused. Applications for wholesale licenses by former holders of bottle licenses were struck out. All wholesale licenses were renewed.

It is understood that a number of barmaids in Christchurch decided not to take advantage of the opportunity for registration given under recent legislation, and they have voluntarily left their present occupation.

In the Magistrate's Court at Masterton on Friday, before Mr L. G. Reid, S.M., Emily Haviland was charged with a breach of the Licensing Act in having kept liquor for sale in a No-License area. The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that the house occupied by accused had been watched, and men had been seen going in and out at all hours, apparently in a state of intoxication. A search of the house revealed a bottle of beer under a mattress, and, in a square hole in the floor, under the linoleum, were discovered eight bottles of beer, and two bottles of whisky. The defence sought to show that the beer and whisky had been secreted under the floor by accused's husband, who had previously been convicted for sly grog-selling. His Worship said that accused had been previously warned, and had been convicted and fined in 1909. On this occasion she would be sentenced to a month's hard labour in the Wellington Terrace Gaol.

We learn that Mr T. Geary, of Patea, has disposed of his interest in the Masonic Hotel to Mr Ed. Smith.

In the course of a letter to the "Lyttelton Times," Mr Geo. Loach, of Ashburton, says:—"I have a two-table billiard-room in Ashburton, and I have seen hundreds of drunken men come into my room. If they behave themselves I let them stay until they get sober, and not one of them has got run in, so I was not exaggerating when I said not one out of fifty gets run in. It is in my room I have seen men open swags and portmanteaux with six bottles of grog in them. I do not cast any reflection on the police, as they don't see these men. By what I have seen here I think that local option is not a success."

Mr Frank Holder, of Napier, who is leaving the Provincial Hotel to enter into another business, entertained the boarders and a number of friends the other evening. Mr Bryan Love-day, who presided, expressed regret that Mr Holder was leaving the hotel, and on behalf of the boarders made him a presentation of a silver-mounted pocket-book and a gold sovereign case. Mr Holder returned his thanks in a neat speech. During the evening songs were contributed by Messrs. J. Biss, V. Gaffney, G. Tankard, and D. Mearns, whilst the "Frivs." also rendered several items. The toasts honored were "Our Host," "The Ladies," "The Performers," and "The Staff." The evening concluded with "Auld Lang Syne," and cheers for Mr Holder.

Mr Pownall suggested at the Magistrate's Court, Masterton, that instead of liquor being destroyed in sly-grog cases it should be confiscated and given to the Old Men's Home or to the hospital. Sergeant Miller replied that he would hesitate to give the liquor away, as it might be of doubtful quality.

At the annual meeting of the Dunedin Licensing Committee, the landlord of the Commercial Hotel, John Watson, was cautioned regarding bookmakers frequenting his premises. When Sir "Joe" Lyons, England's newest knight, opened a big hotel on the Strand, about 18 months ago, and announced that there would be no "tips" in the new hostelry, most old Londoners laughed. It has proved such a success that the directors are going to build the biggest hotel in England, and probably in the whole world, where the same system will be practised.

LICENSING COMMITTEES.

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS.

WAITEMATA.

The annual meeting of the Licensing Committee for the Waitemata district was held at Devonport on Friday. Mr E. C. Cutten, S.M., presided, and there were also present: Messrs. J. C. Macky, J. Edson, G. E. White, R. H. Duder, and A. Alison. A transfer of the license of the Masonic Hotel, Devonport, from Henry Watts to Romeo Alexander Bragato, was granted, and the latter was granted a publican's license. The licenses of hotels in the district were renewed as follows:—William John Bray, Esplanade Hotel, Devonport; Charlie Beaumont, Cave Hot Springs Hotel, Waitera; Alexander Stevenson, Lucas Creek Hotel, Albany; Audus Raynes, Mon Desir Hotel, Takapuna; Daniel Holland, Northcote Hotel; James Tifford, Puhoi Hotel; Thomas William Deacon, Riverhead; Joseph Schollum, Wade Hotel; James N. Griffin, White Horse Hotel, Kumeu North; and William Hood Gaw, Warkworth Hotel. With the exception of the Esplanade, Warkworth, and Hot Springs hotels, permission to extinguish the hotel lights at 10 p.m. was granted in each case.

PARNELL.

At the annual meeting of the Licen-